



**NORTH DAKOTA**  
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

---

## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:  
Oct. 11, 2007

For More Information, Contact:  
Stacy Eberl  
Loreeta Canton  
Office of Public Information  
North Dakota Department of Health  
Phone: 701.328.2372  
E-mail: [sleberl@nd.gov](mailto:sleberl@nd.gov)  
[lcanton@nd.gov](mailto:lcanton@nd.gov)

### **Health Insurance Companies Soon To Be Billed for Childhood Vaccinations** ***Children Eligible for Vaccines For Children Program Will Continue To Receive Free Vaccines***

BISMARCK, N.D. – Beginning Jan. 1, 2008, health insurance companies will be billed for vaccines given to children covered by their policies, according to the North Dakota Department of Health. To prepare for this change, parents are encouraged to check their insurance policies for childhood vaccination coverage.

In the past, the federal government provided vaccines for all North Dakota children younger than 18. However, because the number of recommended vaccinations has increased and the federal vaccine allotment has not, the Department of Health will no longer be able to supply vaccines for children who have health insurance. Instead, the patients' insurance companies will be billed for the cost of the vaccine.

Beginning January 1, some patients may begin to see, for the first time, deductibles, coinsurance and/or copayments for vaccinations on the explanation of benefits reports from their insurance companies. Cost-sharing amounts will vary, depending upon the insurance plan.

Children who are uninsured, underinsured (have health insurance that does not cover vaccinations), eligible for Medicaid, or Native American will continue to receive free vaccine through the Vaccines For Children program, a federal entitlement program.

"Every child is precious and deserves to grow up healthy and strong," said State Health Officer Terry Dwelle, M.D. "Making sure our children are vaccinated is one of the most important ways of protecting their health. I encourage parents to check their insurance policies to see which vaccines are covered by their plans. If you think your child may be eligible for the Vaccines For Children program, talk to your local public health unit or private provider."

-- more --

---

600 E. Boulevard Ave. Dept. 301, Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0200  
Phone: 701.328.2372 Fax: 701.328.4727 E-mail: [health@nd.gov](mailto:health@nd.gov)

Visit the health department home page at [www.ndhealth.gov](http://www.ndhealth.gov).

The Department of Health has been working with private providers, local public health units and Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota to develop information for parents to help them prepare for the upcoming changes. “PROtect ND Kids” information has been sent to schools, clinics, hospitals, local public health units and businesses across the state. To access the “PROtect ND Kids” fact sheets and other articles, visit [www.ndhealth.gov](http://www.ndhealth.gov); [www.bcbsnd.com](http://www.bcbsnd.com); or hospital, clinic or local public health unit websites.

For more information, contact Stacy Eberl or Loreeta Canton, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.2372.

-- 30 --

*Please note: To access archived news releases and other information, visit the North Dakota Department of Health Press Room at [www.nddohpressroom.gov](http://www.nddohpressroom.gov).*

